US Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District

TUTTLE CREEK DAM

FACT SHEET

April 2001

THE SPILLWAY FAULT

The spillway fault system at Tuttle Creek Dam is a geological feature that can be seen in the east side of the spillway cut. Rock layers are offset along diagonal lines that can be traced along the face of the cut. Signs in the northwest spillway parking lot identify the faults visible on the opposite wall.

These faults were discovered during investigations prior to construction of the dam. The faults actually extend across the lake and have been traced in the hills on the west side of the lake. These features have also been traced for several miles to the east of the spillway. The faults do not extend below any part of the dam or spillway gates.

No earthquakes in historic times have been associated with these faults. Microseismic studies have been conducted by the Kansas Geological Survey with funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These studies used very sensitive instruments to detect earthquakes that cannot be felt and did not show any recent activity related to this fault system. Additional investigations also show that there are no disturbances in the surface soils above the fault that indicate any recent activity. These faults are not considered active, and do not pose a danger to Tuttle Creek Dam.

This fact sheet is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program.
Comments or questions about this fact sheet or the Dam Safety Assurance Program should be directed to Bill Empson of the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers at (816) 983-3556 or by E-mail at tcdam.nwk@usace.army.mil.
Questions or comments about lake operations or Tuttle Creek project office activities should be directed to the on-site Operations Manager, Brian McNulty at 785-539-8511.
For additional information, visit our web site: http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tcdam

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